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R 051120Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3278

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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USIA FOR IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MIL VS

SUBJ: VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT--FEBRUARY 26-
MARCH 4, 1975

PART I -- SUMMARY

A. ACTIVITY INCREASED THIS WEEK IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AND ALONG QL 19 IN MR 2. THE FIGHTING IN THE OTHER MRS WAS AT A MODERATE OF DECLINING RATE, AND COUNTRYWIDE THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS DECLINED ALMOST 15 PER CENT. RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE DOWN A COMPARABLE AMOUNT, BUT NVA/VC KILLED IN ACTION BASED ON INITIAL BATTLEFIELD REPORTS ROSE ABOUT 20 PER CENT. THE PICK-UP IN THE HIGHLANDS FEATURED ARTILLERY FIRE ON KONTUM CITY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE COMMUNIST 72 OFFENSIVE, AND A STIFF COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACK NORTHWEST OF THAT CITY, AS WELL AS SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN THE THANH AN AREA OF PLEIKU. THE COMMUNISTS ALSO MOUNTED THREE ATTACKS MARCH 4 ON QL 19 (THE ROAD BETWEEN QUI NHON AND PLEIKU), THE MAIN GROUND SUPPLY ROUTE BETWEEN THE COAST AND THE HIGHLANDS.

B. INCIDENTS WERE DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY IN MR1, WITH ONLY A LOW LEVEL OF FIGHTING NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS AND MODERATE ACTIVITY SOUTH OF THE PASS. SABOTAGE AND TERRORISM WERE UP, WITH THE MAIN FOCUS OF THESE ACTIVITIES BEING QUANG NAM PROVINCE. THE ARVN SPOILING OPERATION IN QUANG NGAI CONTINUED ANOTHER WEEK, WITH THE GVN REPORTING HEAVY COMMUNIST LOSSES.

C. FIGHTING IN KONTUM WAS HIGHER THIS WEEK THAN AT ANY TIME OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, BUT THE ARVN/RANGER UNITY WHICH CAME UNDER HEAVY GROUND ATTACK NORTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY FOUGHT WELL IN RESISTING COMMUNIST FORCES AND INFLECTED HEAVY LOSSES. VNAF ALSO HAD SOME SUCCESS IN SORTIES AGAINST COMMUNIST SUPPLY DEPOTS. THERE ARE VARIOUS VIEWS ABOUT WHY COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN KONTUM AND PLEIKU HAS INCREASED RECENTLY, AND ABOUT WHAT COMMUNIST INTENTIONS REALLY ARE. MR 2 HEADQUARTERS IS POSITIONING ITS FORCES IN THE BELIEF THAT PLEIKU FACES THE GREATEST THREAT.
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ANOTHER 88 PHUOC LONG REFUGEES MADE THEIR WAY TO QUANG DUC.

D. COMMUNIST CASUALTIES IN MR 3 WERE THE HIGHEST THIS WEEK SINCE THE CURRENT DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN BEGAN. MR 3 COMMANDER, LG TOAN, HAS CONTINUED PROBES TO KEEP THE NVA/VC OFF BALANCE WITH SOME SUCCESS. ONE PARTICULARLY FRUITFUL EXAMPLE OF THIS TACTIC OCCURRED IN BIEN HOA MARCH 1 AND 2, WHERE A LONG-ESTABLISHED NVA/VC BASE AREA WAS DESTROYED WITH HEAVY COMMUNIST LOSSES.

THERE WAS MINOR ACTIVITY IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, AND TAY NINH CITY WAS FIRED UPON ON TWO OCCASIONS. SAPPER ATTACKS AND TERRORISM BY THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUED OVER THE REGION.

E. THERE WAS ANOTHER DECLINE IN ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA, WHERE THE GVN IS ALSO EMPLOYING THE PRE-EMPTIVE TACTIC. A RASH OF INCIDENTS THE LAST DAY OF THE PERIOD PROBABLY PRESAGES AN UPSWING ON THE PART OF THE COMMUNISTS. THE RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY OVER THE PAST FOUR WEEKS HAS HELPED THE RVNAF IN ITS PRE-EMPTIVE EFFORTS. ACTIVITY WAS DOWN IN THE NORTHERN DELTA, AND THINGS WERE RELATIVELY QUIET IN THE SOUTH. HOWEVER, IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE IN THE CENTRAL DELTA, THE ARVN 32D REGIMENT FINISHED AN OPERATION BEGUN A WEEK AGO AGAINST MULTIPLE COMMUNIST UNITS IN WHICH HEAVY NVA/VC LOSSES WERE INFLICTED AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF COMMUNIST MATERIEL CAPTURED.

PART II -- ICCS.

INDONESIA ASSUMED THE CHAIR MARCH 1 AND EXPECTS TO EXERCISE MORE POSITIVE LEADERSHIP OVER AT LEAST ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS; HOWEVER, INDODEL AMBASSADOR SAMIL INFORMED US THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT AGREEMENT IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE CURRENT CRUCIAL ISSUE OF THE POWERS OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SECRETARIAT. THE COMMISSION RENEWED THE ESSENTIAL CONTRACTS WITH AIR AMERICA AND PA&E ON FEBRUARY 28. MEANWHILE, THE COMMISSION CONTINUES TO PLUNGE DEEPER INTO DEBT, AND OWES OVER \$9 MILLION TO THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE FURNISHING THE FOUR CONTINGENTS.

PART III -- FPJMT, TPJMC AND RELATED MATTERS.

THE DRV/"PRG" BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC CONTINUED INTO ITS THIRTY-SEVENTH WEEK.

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PART IV --COMMUNIST COMMENT

A. SAIGON-PHNOM PENH AIRLIFT

THE ATTENTION OF BOTH THE DRV AND THE "PRG" WAS FOCUSED
LARGELY ON CAMBODIAN DEVELOPMENTS--AND PARTICULARLY ON THE U.S.

AIRLIFT OF FOOD AND FUEL TO PHNOM PENH FROM SAIGON. THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY, IN A FEBRUARY 26 STATEMENT, ALLEGED THAT THE AIRLIFT WAS MOVING "WEAPONS, MUNITIONS, FUEL, AND FOOD"; CALLED IT AN "EXTREMELY GRAVE VIOLATION OF ARTICLES 1, 4, 7 AND 20 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT" AND AN "ACT OF WAR"; AND ASSERTED THAT "THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PUNISH THIS ACT OF AGGRESSION." THE "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED A SIMILARLY WORDED STATEMENT THE SAME DAY. IN SUCCEEDING DAYS, ALL MAJOR VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST NEWS MEDIA PICKED UP THE THEME.

B. U.S. CONGRESSIONAL VISIT.

THE VISIT OF ONE SENATOR AND SEVEN REPRESENTATIVES TO SOUTH VIET-NAM WAS FOLLOWED WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST BY COMMUNIST MEDIA, OCCASIONING SEVERAL SUMMARY EDITORIALS OF THE COMMUNIST POSITION SINCE THE PARIS AGREEMENTS, AS WELL AS SPOT REPORTS ON THE DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES. MUCH WAS MADE BEFORE THE VISIT OF THE REFUSAL OF SOME REPRESENTATIVES TO JOIN THE GROUP, AND CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS WITH SAIGON OPPOSITION GROUPS WERE AVIDLY COVERED. FOLLOWING THE MEETING MARCH 2 BETWEEN THE CODEL AND DRV/"PRG" REPRESENTATIVES, HOWEVER, THE COMMUNISTS SCRAMBLED TO COVER THEMSELVES. IN NEARLY IDENTICAL PRESS COMMUNIQUES BROADCAST IN BOTH VIETNAMESE AND ENGLISH FROM HANOI THE FOLLOWING DAY, THEY ACCUSED CODEL MEMBERS OF A "LACK OF GOOD WILL" (DRV) AND A "LACK OF SERIOUSNESS" ("PRG") IN INSISTING ON DISCUSSING THE MIA ISSUE.

PART V -- MR 1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

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I CORPS HQS BRIEFED 109 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DURING THE WEEK, A DECREASE FROM LAST WEEK'S 188. THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. FIGHTING CONTINUED AT A MODERATE LEVEL SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, PRINCIPALLY IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. SABOTAGE AND TERRORIST ACTIVITY INCREASED DURING THE WEEK. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD GVN CASUALTIES WERE 43 KIA, 296 WIA, 3 MIA. NVA/VC LOSSES WERE 262 KIA, 38 CAPTURED, AND 1 RETURNEE. A TOTAL OF 241 COMBAT AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN. BETWEEN FEB 28 AND MAR 3, 18 F5E FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, ALONG WITH THEIR AIR AND GROUND CREWS, WERE MOVED FROM BIEN HOA AIRBASE IN MR-3 TO THE DANANG AIRBASE.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

QUANG TRI (P) WAS QUIET EXCEPT FOR ABF'S ON THE WESTERN FLANK OF THE MARINE UNITS WEST OF THE MY CHANH RIVER AND EAST OF HILL 300 IN HAI LAM (D). IN THUA THIEN (P), FIGHTING WAS LIMITED TO

SMALL CONTACTS IN THE MO TAU AND NUI BONG AREAS. ON MAR 3, NVA/VC BLEW UP ONE SPAN OF THE AN LO BRIDGE BETWEEN PHONG DIEN AND HUONG TRA DISTRICTS, THUA THIEN (P), CAUSING A DELAY IN TRAFFIC UNTIL AN ADJACENT BRIDGE COULD BE PUT INTO LIMITED OPERATION. REPAIR OF THE BRIDGE WAS COMPLETED AFTER 14 HOURS AND TRAFFIC REESTABLISHED ON THE EVENING OF MAR 3D.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM (P), THE VC LOCAL FORCES OF DUY XUYEN AND DIEN BAN DISTRICTS CONTINUED HARASSMENT OF RVNAF PACIFICATION EFFORTS. ON MAR 4, AN AMMO DUMP AT HO KHANH BASE, 3KM WEST OF DANANG AIR-BASE IN QUANG NAM (P), CONTAINING MORTAR AMMUNITION OF THE 2D REGT, 3D ARVN INFANTRY DIVISION, WAS BLOWN UP. PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS SUGGEST THAT ALL AMMO STORED AT THE DUMP WAS DESTROYED. ON MAR 4, NVA/VC BLEW UP ONE SPAN OF THE CAU TRANG (WHITE) BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 1, 2.5KM NORTH OF NAM O (H), HOA HIEP (V), HOA VANG (D), QUANG NAM (P). TRAFFIC WAS TEMPORARILY INTERRUPTED AND REPAIRS WERE COMPLETED BY 1030 HOURS, MAR 4. ON FEB 28, NVA/VC THREW TWO HAND GRENADES INTO A CROWD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CAM HA (V), HIEU NHON (D), QUANG NAM (P), RESULTING IN 1 RF MEMBER AND 5 CIVILIANS KILLED; AND 23 WOUNDED INCLUDING 1 DEPUTY SUB SUBSECTOR COMMANDER, 3 PF MEMBERS, 1 VILLAGE CADRE, 5 RURAL DEVELOPMENT CADRE, 4 PSDF AND 9 CIVILIANS. ON MAR 1, NVA/VC INFILTRATORS FIRED 7 RDS OF B40 AND THREW HAND GRENADES INTO THE PHU THANH VILLAGE OFFICE, QUE SON
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(D), QUANG NAM (P). THREE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED, 1 PF MEMBER AND 11 CIVILIANS WOUNDED, THE VILLAGE OFFICE 10 PERCENT DAMAGED AND 2 HOUSES DESTROYED. THE 3D INFANTRY DIVISION HAS BEEN ASSIGNED AN ENLARGED AREA OF OPERATION WHICH INCLUDES ALL OF QUANG TIN (P) EXCEPT FOR LY TIN (D); THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THEIR PRESENT A/O IN QUANG NAM (P). THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING IN QUANG TIN (P). IN QUANG NGAI (P), FIGHTING CONTINUED, AND NVA/VC UNITS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES IN SOUTHERN NGHIA HANH DISTRICT AND NORTHWESTERN MO DUC DISTRICT, AS THE 2D INFANTRY DIVISION CONTINUED OPERATION "QUYET THANG A/1/75"; ARVN UNITS INVOLVED REPORTEDLY SUFFERED MODERATE CASUALTIES.

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R 051120Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

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AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

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4. ICCS:

IN ICCS REGION 1, ON FEB 26 THE INDONESIANS AND THE IRANIANS CONDUCTED AN OBSERVATION OF THE FEB 22 SHELLING OF PHU BAI AIR BASE. IN REGION 2, TWO OBSERVATIONS WERE REPORTED: ON MARCH 1 THE INDONESIANS AND THE IRANIANS CONDUCTED AN OBSERVATION OF THE FEB 28 INCIDENT IN WHICH A GRENADE WAS THROWN INTO A MEETING AT CAM HA VILLAGE NEAR HOI AN (REPORTED ABOVE). ON MARCH 3, THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS CONDUCTED AN OBSERVATION OF THE MARCH 1 ATTACK ON THE PHUH HJKH VILLAGE OFFICE IN QUE SON DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE (REPORTED ABOVE).

PART VI -- MR 2

SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY PICKED UP, ESPECIALLY IN KONTUM AND PLEIKU. A MAJOR COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACK AT A RANGER POSITION NORTH OF KONTUM CITY WAS REPULSED BY THE RANGERS ON FEB 28; FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE EASTER OFFENSIVE OF 1972, THE CITY ITSELF RECEIVED ARTILLERY FIRE ON FEB 28 AND MAR 4. IN PLEIKU, SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT GROUND ATTACKS, ABF'S, AND MININGS TOOK PLACE NEAR THANH AN. GVN OPERATIONS TO THE NORTH OF BAN ME THUOT PRODUCED SEVERAL SIZABLE CONTACTS IN DARLAC; THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL INCIDENTS ALONG LOC'S IN THE PROVINCE. IN BINH DINH, MILITARY ACTION WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY 3 SEPARATE COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS ON MAR 4 TO INTERDICT QL-19 BETWEEN QUI NHON AND PLEIKU.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
FEBRUARY 24 - MAR 2, 1975

I. COMMUNIST-INITIATED INCIDENTS:

TOTAL INCIDENTS	HIGHLAND	COASTAL ZONE
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LAST WEEK:	35	17 PERCENT	83 PERCENT
THIS WEEK:	45	42 PERCENT	58 PERCENT

PLEIKU WAS THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE WITH 16 INCIDENTS.

II. GVN-INITIATED INCIDENTS:

LAST WEEK: 53 GROUND CONTACTS
THIS WEEK: NN 61 GROUND CONTACTS

III. COMMUNIST PERSONNEL AND WEAPONS LOSSES:

	PERSONNEL			WEAPONS		
	KIA	CIA	RETURNEE	CS	INDV	TOTAL WPNS
LAST WEEK:	172	01	04	08	43	51
THIS WEEK:	271	07	07	11	79	90

IV. GVN PERSONNEL AND WEAPONS LOSSES:

	MN	KIA	WIA	MIA	CS	INDV	TOTAL	WPNS
LAST WEEK:	32	93	01		03	43	46	
THIS WEEK:	32	78	51		00	03	03	

V. GVN ARTILLERY AMMO UTILIZATION (ROUNDS):

	105	155	175	TOTAL
LAST WEEK:	6,520	627	36	7,183
THIS WEEK:	6,201	742	54	6,997

VI. GVN AIR OPERATIONS (SORTIES)

	TAC AIR	VR	HELICOPTER
LAST WEEK:	170	178	785
THIS WEEK:	129	142	692

2. BINH DINH: MILITARY ACTION IN BINH DINH WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THREE SEPARATE COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS ON MAR 4 TO INTERDICT QL-19 NEAR BINH KHE -- ATTEMPTS WHICH SUBSTANTIATED NUMEROUS INTELLIGENCE REPORTED INDICATING THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD TRY TO CUT QL-19 IN THE BINH KHE-AN TUC AREA. ONE OF THE ATTEMPTS, IN THE VICINITY OF BR 478434, WAS REPULSED BY GVN TROOPS, WHO KILLED 12 COMMUNISTS (CAPTURED DOCUMENTS INDICATE THE COMMUNXT UNITS IN THIS CONTACT MAY HAVE BEEN ELEMENTS OF THE 12TH NVA REGT). IN A SECOND INCIDENT, THE COMMUNISTS BLEW UP A BRIDGE AT BR 716406. TRAFFIC WAS STOPPED THERE, BUT ARVN ENGINEERS BELIEVE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO RESTORE CIRCULATION BY 1000 HRS ON MAR 5. THE THIRD COMMUNIST ATTACK OCCURRED IN THE VICINITY OF BR

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640470; FIGHTING WAS STILL GOING ON THERE AS OF 1400 HRS ON MAR 4. ALSO ON MAR 4, TWO 82-MM MORTARS LANDED IN BINH KHE MARKET. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, NUMEROUS SMALL ENGAGEMENTS TOOK PLACE PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF TAM QUAN, HOAI NHON, AND PHU MY. IN THE LARGEST OF THESE ENGAGEMENTS, A PLATOON OF THE 234TH RF BN CLASHED WITH A VC FORCE IN A POPULATED AREA IN TAM QUAN (BS 895055) ON MAR 2, REPORTEDLY KILLING 7 VC AND CAPTURING 3 WEAPONS WHILE TAKING NO CASUALTIES; 3 CIVILIAN HOUSES WERE DESTROYED DURING THE FIGHTING. AND ON MAR 1, 4 VNAF TAC AIR SORTIES DIRECTED AT 5 KM WEST SOUTHWEST OF TAM QUAN REPORTEDLY KILLED 10 COMMUNISTS.

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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3. KONTUM: THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING IN SEVERAL MONTHS TOOK PLACE

THIS WEEK. THE PRINCIPAL GROUND CONTACT OCCURRED ON FEB 28, 11 KM NW OF KONTUM CITY, WHERE A COMMUNIST FORCE ATTACKED THE 2ND CO OF THE 22ND BN/23 RANGER GROUP. IN REPULSING THE ATTACK, THE RANGERS KILLED 21 COMMUNISTS AND CAPTURED 7 WEAPONS, WHILE LOSING 7 KIA, 17 WIA, 1 MIA, AND TWO WEAPONS OF THEIR OWN. ALSO ON FEB 28, THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED ABF'S AGAINST SEVERAL OTHER RANGER POSITIONS TO THE NORTH OF KONTUM CITY; 12 VNAF TAC AIR SORTIES DELIVERED TO THE AREA OF ACTION NORTH OF KONTUM REPORTEDLY KILLED 16 COMMUNISTS. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE EASTER OFFENSIVE OF 1972, KONTUM CITY ITSELF RECEIVED ARTILLERY FIRE ON FEB 28 AND MARCH 4. THE ABF ON FEB 28 CAUSED NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES, BUT THE ABF ON MARCH 4 KILLED ONE PERSON AND WOUNDED 5 OTHERS. FOR ITS PART, THE GVN CONTINUED TO POUND AT COMMUNIST SUPPLY DEPOTS. IN 40 SORTIES FLOWN ON FEB 25 AND 26, VNAF REPORTEDLY KNOCKED OUT 18 FUEL TANKS AND DESTROYED 22 HOUSES LOCATED 50-60 KM NORTHWEST OF THE CITY.

4. PLEIKU: PLEIKU--SPECIFICALLY, THE THANH AN AREA--UPSTAGED BINH DINH THIS WEEK AS THE CENTER OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN REGION 2. IN SEPARATE GROUND CONTACTS WEST OF THANH AN ON FEB 26 AND 28, ELEMENTS OF THE 25TH RANGER GROUP AND THE 44TH ARVN REGT REPORTEDLY KILLED 28 COMMUNISTS AND CAPTURED 7 WEAPONS AND SOME AMMO, WITH MINIMAL GVN LOSSES. THANH AN AND ENVIRONS ALSO TOOK APPROXIMATELY 200 ARTILLERY ROUNDS ON MAR 1 AND 3, RESULTING IN 3 CIVILIANS KIA, 1 CIVILIAN WIA, 3 SOLDIERS WIA, AND 4 HOUSES DESTROYED. ALSO, ON FEB 26, 7 KM NORTHEAST OF THANH AN, 2 TRI-LAMBRETTAS TRAVELLING FROM THANH AN TO PLEIKU CITY ON QL-19 WERE BLASTED BY A COMMUNIST MINE, RESULTING IN 10 CIVILIANS AND ONE SOLDIER KILLED AND 8 CIVILIANS AND 3 SOLDIERS WOUNDED. THESE ATTACKS ARE CONSISTENT WITH INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT THE NVA PLAN TO TAKE THE AREA BETWEEN THANH AN AND HAMRANG (AR 7935). HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF MORE GENERAL THEORIES HAVE BEEN ADVANCED BY VARIOUS GVN OFFICIALS TO EXPLAIN THE INCREASE IN COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN KONTUM AND PLEIKU. SOME INTERPRET THE UPSURGE AS RETALIATION FOR THE RECENT VNAF AIRSTRIKES WHICH APPARENTLY HAVE HEAVILY DAMAGED COMMUNIST SUPPLY DEPOTS AND CONVOYS IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS; OTHERS VIEW IT AS THE BEGINNING OF THE LONG-CONFIDENTIAL

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ANTICIPATED DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE, POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE KONTUM CITY; AND STILL OTHERS FEEL IT IS A DIVERSION PREPARATORY TO MAJOR ATTACKS IN DARLAC AND QUANG DUC. IN ANY EVENT, THE TRANSFER OF THE FORWARD HQS AND THE 45TH REGT OF THE 23RD ARVN DIV BACK TO PLEIKU FROM DARLAC WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT MR-2 HQS BELIEVES THE MOST IMMINENT THREAT IS IN PLEIKU.

5. DARLAC: BECAUSE OF A HIGHER LEVEL OF OPERATIONS BOTH BY THE GVN AND THE COMMUNISTS, THE NUMBER AND INTENSITY OF MILITARY INCIDENTS INCREASED. THE TWO LARGEST CLASHES RESULTED FROM A COMBINED RF/53RD ARVN REGT OPERATION BETWEEN TL-1 AND THE MEWAL

PLANTATION, NORTH OF BAN ME THUOT, WHERE THE 225TH RF BN
KILLED 12 COMMUNISTS AND CAPTURED 5 WEAPONS; RF CASUALTIES WERE
NOT REPORTED. IN THE SECOND INCIDENT, ELEMENTS OF THE 53RD
AMBUSHED A COMMUNIST RECON ELEMENT ON FEB 28 AT AQ763173
NEAR CU MGAR FIRE BASE. 23RD DIV OFFICIALS BELIEVE THIS RECON TEAM
WAS ATTACHED TO THE 320TH NVA DIV. THERE WERE SEVERAL INCIDENTS
ALONG LOC'S IN DARLAC. ON FEB 26, 55 KM EAST OF BAN ME THUOT ON
QL-21, THE COMMUNISTS FIRED ONE B-40 ROUND AT A CONVOY OF THE 5TH
TRANSPORTATION CORPS TRAVELLING FROM BAN ME THUOT TO NHA TRANG;
ONE TWO AND A HALF TON TRUCK WAS DESTROYED, BUT NO PERSONNEL
CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. ON MAR 1, A GVN ROAD SECURITY ELEMENT
TOOK B-40 FIRE AT BQ 357180, AND SUSTAINED 2 WIA. AND ALONG QL-14,
ON FEB 27, A PF UNIT ON ROAD SECURITY IN BUON HO DISTRICT
DISCOVERED 5 VC WHO WERE PREPARING MINES FOR EMPLACEMENT ALONG
THE ROAD; THE PF KILLED ALL 5 VC AND SEIZED 17 CHICOM ANTI-TANK
MINES. VNAF AIR OPERATIONS AGAINST COMMUNIST POSITIONS IN NORTHERN
DARLAC CONTINUED. ON FEB 28, 6 TAC AIR SORTIES DESTROYED 58 HOUSES,
7 BUNKERS, AND ONE FUEL TANK 50 KM WEST NORTHWEST OF BAN ME THUOT.

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SS-15 DPW-01 AID-05 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 /088 W

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R 051120Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3282

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
(AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
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6. OTHER: IN PHU BON ON MAR 2, AN RF SECURITY UNIT DETECTED A VC UNIT AT BQ 225805; THE VC APPARENTLY WERE SAPPERS ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THE PROVINCE AMMO AND POL DUMP. THE RF THWARTED THE ATTACK BUT TOOK 1 KIA, 1 WIA, AND 1 MIA, AS AKGAINST NO REPORTED COMMUNIST CASUALTIES. IN QUANG DUC IT APPEARS THAT THE COMMUNIST ARE ENGAGED IN EXTENSIVE RECON AND ARE A SO TRYING TO BUILD A STRONG LOGISTICS BASE. THEY HAVE PROSELYTIZED EXTENSIVELY AND HAVE ABDUCTED SEVERAL CIVILIANS FOR FORCED LABOR. 88 REFUGEES FROM PHUOC LONG ENTERED QUANG DUC THIS WEEK.

7. ICCS: ASIDE FROM HIGH LEVEL VISITS (TWO IRANIAN GENERALS VISITED THE AREA AND THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR LEADING A PARTY OF 8 CAME TO NHA TRANG), THE PRINCIPAL ICCS ACTIVITY TOOK PLACE AT 1600 ON FEB 28, 7 KM ENE OF THANH AN. TWO INDONESIAN AND 2 IRANIAN ICCS DELEGATES WERE THERE TO INVESTIGATE THE MINING OF TWO TRILAMBRETTAS ON FEB 26. DURING THE COURSE OF THEIR OBSERVATION, THE ACTING DISTRICT CHIEF WAS POINTING OUT OTHER MINES AID OUT BY THE COMMUNISTS AND INADVERTENTLY SET ONE OFF. THREE VIETNAMESE WERE WOUNDED, BUT NONE OF THE ICCS DELEGATES WERE INJURED. THE INDONESIANS HAVE REPORTEDLY DEMANDED THAT THE ENTIRE ICCS GROUP INVESTIGATE THIS SECOND INCIDENT BUT THEY DON'T EXPECT ANYONE EXCEPT THE IRANIANS T RESPOND.

PART VII -- MR 3

1. AS MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A MODERATE LEVEL, THE NEW MR3 COMMANDER KEPT PRESSURE ON THE NVA/VC ON THE THREE MAIN ACTIVE FRONTS IN THE REGION -- TAY NINH IN THE WEST, BINH DUONG IN THE CENTER, AND LONG KHANH IN THE EAST. THE NVA/VC HAVE NOT YET LAUNCHED THE EXPECTED SECOND PHASE OF THE 1974-75 DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN. THIS APPEARS TO BE DUE IN PART AT LEAST TO THE GVN'S PROBES IN FORCE, KEEPING COMMUNIST FORCES OFF BALANCE, AND PERHAPS ALSO TO THE PRESENCE OF THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. GVN FORCES SCORED A STRIKING SUCCESS
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IN NORTHWEST BIEN HOA PROVINCE MARCH 1 AND 2, DESTROYING A LONG-ESTABLISHED NVA/VC BASE AREA WITH 76 NVA/VC KIA, PROBABLY PHU LOI BN AND 119TH REGT SAPPERS, COMPARED WITH ONLY 11 WIA AMONG GVN FORCES. TAY NINH CITY EXPERIENCED ONLY TWO ABF'S DURING THE WEEK. NVA/VC CASUALTIES WERE THE HIGHEST SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE 1974-75 DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN.

2. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A MODERATE LEVEL THIS WEEK WITH 212 INCIDENTS COMPARED TO 200 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. BINH DUONG RECORDED 49 INCIDENTS (52 LAST WEEK), LONG KHANH HAD 46 (28), AND TAY NINH 32 (33). MR3 HQS REPORTED 79 GROUND CONTACTS, 72 ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND NINE COMBINED GROUND AND ABF'S. THERE WERE TEN MININGS AND 42 OTHER INCIDENTS.

3. NVA/VC ABF'S TOTALED 955 ROUNDS, INCLUDING 771 MORTAR, 23 ROCKET, AND 161 ARTILLERY ROUNDS. ARVN EXPENDITURES WERE 15,183 COMPARED WITH 12,757 LAST WEEK. VNAF 3RD AIR DIV FLEW 147 FIXED-WING SORTIES AND 393 HELICOPTER GUNSHIP MISSIONS.

4. MR3 HQS REPORTED GVN CASUALTIES AS 60 KIA, 239 WIA, AND 27 MIA. NVA/VC LOSSES WERE SET AT 241 KIA, 13 CIA, AND SIX RALLIERS. IN ADDITION 3RD AIR DIV REPORTED 57 NVA/VC KILLED BY AIR STRIKES.

5. GVN OPERATIONS CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT MR3 THIS WEEK WERE PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE. ON MARCH 1 AND 2, IN THE BIEN HOA-BINH DUONG BORDER AREA 15 KMS NORTHWEST OF BIEN HOA AIR BASE, RANGER FORCES SUPPORTED BY ARMOR UNITS ENGAGED NVA/VC FORCES AND PENETRATED A LONG-ESTABLISHED NVA/VC BASE CAMP, MOST RECENTLY USED BY THE PHU LOI BATTALION AND THE 119TH NVA SAPPER REGT IN FIVE GROUND CONTACTS OVER A 24-HOUR PERIOD, THE NVA/VC LOST 76 KIA AND 84 WEAPONS PLUS OVER 100 KILOS OF EXPLOSIVES, WHILE ARVN LOST ONLY 11 WIA. NVA/VC SAPPERS ATTEMPTED TO PENETRATE BIEN HOA AIR BASE ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 2 BUT WERE SPOTTED BY PERIMETER GUARDS TOUCHING OFF A SHORT FIRE FIGHT RESULTING IN ONE SAPPER KILLED AND ONE BASE GUARD WOUNDED. ALSO ON MARCH 2, COL LUU YEM, BIEN HOA PROVINCE CHIEF, WHILE MAKING AN INSPECTION TOUR BY HELICOPTER IN NHON TRACH, SPOTTED

THEN PERSONALLY CAPTURED TWO VC SOLDIERS IN NHON TRACH DISTRICT.

6. ACTIVITY IN TAY NINH PROVINCE CONTINUED IN THE FORM OF ABF'S
AND MINOR GROUND CONTACTS AIMED AT GVN FORCES OPERATING NORTHEAST
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OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL AND AROUND BA DEN MOUNTAIN. TAY NINH
CITY RECEIVED NINE 122MM ROCKETS ON FEB 26 AND 11 UNIDENTIFIED
ROUNDS ON MARCH 3. ONE CIVILIAN WAS WOUNDED AND THREE HOUSES
AND ONE CHURCH WERE DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF THE ATTACKS.

7. IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE, GVN FORCES ROOTED OUT THE XUAN LOC
VC DISTRICT HQS IN DEEP JUNGLE PENETRATIONS IN AN AREA 10 TO 15
KMS NORTHEAST OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, XUAN LOC, THEN RE-TOOK
BAO CHANH HAMLET IN THAT AREA ON MARCH 4. GVN TOTAL CASUALTIES
IN THE OPERATION WERE EIGHT DEAD AND 46 WOUNDED AS THE NVA/VC
LOST 61 KILLED. ELEMENTS OF THE 274TH NVA REGT MAY HAVE BEEN AMONG
THE NVA CASUALTIES.

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SS-15 DPW-01 AID-05 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 /088 W

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R 051120Z FMAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3283

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
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8. IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, 5TH DIV UNITS MOVING NORTH FROM LAI KHE AND RANGER TROOPS PUSHING SOUTH FROM CHON THANH CONTINUED TO PROBE THE POSSIBILITY OF RE-OPENING QL 13. THE GVN LOST 18 KIA AND 46 WOUNDED WHILE THE NVA/VC HAD 19 KIA IN THE NUMEROUS GROUND CONTACTS AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES.

9. NVA/VC SAPPER TERRORISTS CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE IN MR3. IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE ON FEB 25, IN GIONG LON HAMLET FIVE KMS NORTHEAST OF DUC HOA, A HAMLET CHIEF WAS ASSASSINATED AND NINE PSDF WERE ABDUCTED. ON FEB 26 THE NINH AN VILLAGE CHIEF WAS ASSASSINATED. IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE ON FEB 26, AN NVA/VC FORCE ENTERED AN MY HAMLET FOUR KMS NORTHEAST OF PHU CUONG, KILLED TWO VILLAGE OFFICIALS, TWO MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND ONE POLICEMAN, AND WOUNDED ONE VILLAGE OFFICIAL. IN BINH DUONG ON MARCH 3, THREE FEMALE VC MURDERED THE HAMLET AND DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEFS OF BU CHI, EIGHT KMS SOUTHWEST OF BEN CAT.

10. ICCS: THERE WERE NO ICCS OBSERVATIONS IN ICCS REGION V DURING THIS PERIOD. INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN DELEGATIONS VISITED TAY NINH CITY ON FEB 26 AS GUESTS OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF. DURING THIS TIME THEY UNOFFICIALLY OBSERVED DAMAGE TO TAY NINH CITY CAUSED BY RECENT NVA/VC ROCKET ATTACKS.

PART VIII - MR 4

1. MILITARY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: DELTA MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO DECLINE DURING THE WEEK, THOUGH A SHARP INCREASE IN NUMBER OF INCIDENTS THE LAST DAY OF THE REPORTING PERIOD INDICATES THAT CURRENT EXTENDED LOWPOINT BE ENDING. GVN FORCES, MEANWHILE, CONTINUED AGGRESSIVE PREEMPTIVE OPERATIONS, MOST NOTABLY IN KIEN GIANG WHERE 32ND REGIMENT ELEMENTS CONCLUDED A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL OPERATION AGAINST TWO TRANSPORTATION UNITS AND AN ELEMENT OF THE E-1 REGIMENT. DURING PAST MONTH, RVNAF HAS BEEN MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN IN RECENT PAST IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF LOW LEVELS OF NVA/VC ACTIVITY TO MOUNT ITS OWN OPERATIONS. CORPS REPORTS 244 NVA/VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS (280 LAST WEEK) CONSISTING OF 15 GROUND ATTACKS (11), 17 INFILTRATIONS FNLN 138 ATTACKS BY FIRE (164), 39 HARASSMENTS (67), 3 SABOTAGE (5), 27
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TERRORIST INCIDENTS (28), AND 5 BETRAYALS (NONE). LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES CONTINUED TO RISE, WITH THE GVN REPORTING 126 KIA (96), 643 WIA (548), 36 MIA (28), AND 3 CREW-SERVED (NONE) AND 85 INDIVIDUAL (72) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 764 NVA/VC KILLED (692), 65 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (52), AND 29 CREW-SERVED (25) AND 261 INDIVIDUAL (197) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE DECREASED SHARPLY WITH MOST INCIDENTS BEING MINOR ATTACKS BY FIRE, TERRORISM AND SMALL CONTACTS. ONE CIVILIAN WAS KILLED WHEN 10 MORTAR ROUNDS HIT THE MARKET OF NHI QUI (V), CAI LAY (D), THE SITE OF LAST WEEK'S SCHOOL MORTARING. ON HIGHWAY 4 A MILITARY TRUCK WAS SNIPED AT IN MID-AFTERNOON IN WESTERN CHAU THANH (D) KILLING ONE RF AND WOUNDING ANOTHER. A NEW PROVINCE BATTALION (AP BAC BN) WAS REPORTEDLY OPERATING IN NORTHERN BEN TRANH (D), WHILE 2 RF BATTALIONS AND 2 INDEPENDENT RF COMPANIES WERE DEACTIVATED BECAUSE OF LOW STRENGTHS. IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE, NVA/VC LAUNCHED TWO MINOR AND UNSUCCESSFUL GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST GVN POSITIONS IN MY AN (D) AND THANH BINH (D). GVN UNITS WERE VERY ACTIVE, MAKING CONTACT 22 TIMES. MOST SIGNIFICANT WAS A CONTACT BY AN RF COMPANY IN KIEN VAN (D) IN WHICH 15 NVA/VC WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED. (COMMENT: S-2 AND SECTOR MSS CHIEF QUESTION VERACITY OF THIS REPORT, AS NO LARGE CONCENTRATION OF NVA/VC TROOPS IS KNOWN TO BE IN AREA OF CONTACT AND NO BODY COUNT WAS MADE BY MSS OR IG. END COMMENT). SITUATION IN KIEN TUONG REMAINS STABLE WITH NEITHER SIDE MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS. ELEMENTS OF 14TH REGIMENT/9TH ARVN DIVISION CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN BINH CHAU AREA MAKING DAILY CONTACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN COSTLY TO BOTH SIDES. 15TH REGIMENT/9TH DIVISION CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO RETAKE TUYEN NGHON DISTRICT MARKET AREA, BUT IS MEETING STRONG RESISTANCE FROM ELEMENTS OF 367B SAPPER REGIMENT AND E1 REGIMENT/5TH NVA DIVISION. ARVN DRIVE CURRENTLY STALLED SOUTH OF THE VAM CO TAY RIVER.

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R 051120Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3284

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

RHCFKHQKUSDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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(C) CENTRAL DELTA: IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE, NVA/VC ATTACKED A HAMLET OFFICE ON ROUTE 26 IN TRUC GIANG (D) ONLY 3 KM FROM BEN TRE; THE HAMLET CHIEF AND A PSDF MEMBER WERE KILLED. OTHERWISE, KIEN HOA ENJOYED ITS QUIETEST WEEK IN SOME TIME WITH THE GVN HOLDING THE INITIATIVE. S-2 BELIEVES NVA/VC UNITS ARE FITTING AND TRAINING FOR UPCOMING SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS IN DON NHON (D), KIEN HOA, AND IN CHO LACH (D), VINH LONG. IN VINH BINH PROVINCE, GVN UNITS MADE SCATTERED CONTACTS IN LONG TOAN, CAU NGANG AND CHAU THANH DISTRICTS AND RETOOK DON CHAU (V), TRA CU (D). IN VINH LONG PROVINCE, NVA/VC UNITS MORTARED TRA ON DISTRICT TOWN AND HARASSED AN OB IN THE SAME DISTRICTS. MOST OTHER INCIDENTS RESULTED FROM GVN UNITS ENTERING AND CLEARING MINI-BASE AREAS IN BINH MINH AND TAM BINH DISTRICTS AND CONDUCTING SECURITY OPERATIONS IN TRA ON(D) NEAR THE VINH BINH BORDER. IN SA DEC PROVINCE, NVA/VC FORCES CONTINUED TO ATTACK GVN UNITS IN LAP VO AND DUC TON DISTRICTS AND DESTROYED AT LEAST 9 HIGH TENSION ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION TOWERS IN DUC THANH (D). MORE ELEMENTS OF 502A AND B BATTALIONS ARE EXPECTED TO MOVE TO SA DEC FROM KIEN PHONG, AND KIEN PHONG HAS BEEN TASKED WITH PREVENTING THEIR MOVEMENT. PHONG DINH PROVINCE REPORTS ONLY ONE GROUND ATTACK WHICH WAS AGAINST A PF OB IN SOUTHERN PHONG THUAN (D). THE ATTACK WAS REPULSED WITH 3 VC KILLED AND 1 PF MISSING. ELEMENTS OF 31ST REGIMENT/21ST ARVN DIVISION CONTACTED ELEMENTS OF 18B NVA REGIMENT IN PHONG PHU AND PHONG DIEN DEISTRICTS, KILLING 12. IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, 32ND REGIMENT COMPLETED THE OPERATION BEGUN LAST WEEK AGAINST THE K-6 REGIMENT AND T-70 AND V-19 TRANSPORTATION GROUPS. 328 NVA/VC WERE REPORTED KILLED IN THE OPERATION (INCLUDING THOSE REPORTED LAST WEEK) AND A LARGE QUANTITY OF WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES CAPTURED. OPERATION WAS IN RESPONSE TO REGIMENT'S BEING TASKED WITH CLEARING INFILTRATION ROUTE 1C FROM KIEN BINH (D) TO KIEN LUONG (D). ELSEWHERE IN PROVINCE, 2 RF BATTALIONS ARE FIGHTING TO RETAKE HOA QUAN (V), KIEN BINH (D) FROM VC 519 PROVINCE MOBILE BATTALION.

(D) SOUTHERN DELTA: ALL FOUR SOUTHERN DELTA PROVINCES WERE RELATIVELY QUIET. BA XUYEN PROVINCE REPORTS MORE SHELLINGS OF HOA TU DISTRICT TOWN AND HOA VAN VILLAGE OFFICE IN THE SAME DISTRICT; 2 RF WERE KILLED. THERE WERE ALSO TWO INFILTRATIONS OF
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HAMLETS, ONE OF WHICH LIES ON HIGHWAY 4 IN THANH TRI (D);

1 CIVILIAN WAS KILLED AND ANOTHER WOUNDED. IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE, A HAMLET CHIEF IN VINH CHAU (D) WAS KILLED IN AN INCIDENT REPORTEDLY CONNECTED TO VC RICE TAX COLLECTION. PHUOC LONG VILLAGE HQ, PHUOC LONG (D) CONTINUES TO BE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE WITH 2 VC BATTALIONS AND A MORTAR UNIT NOW LOCATED TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE TOWN. THE ARMORED TROOP WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING IN PHUC LONG WAS MOVED TO CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, LEAVING ONLY AN ARVN RECON COMPANY TO ASSIST TERRITORIAL FORCES THERE. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, THERE WERE SEVERAL LIGHT CONTACTS BY PF AND ARVN UNITS, BUT CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT ON BOTH SIDES. IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, TWO MORE APC'S WERE ASSIGNED TO SUPPORT REOCCUPIED TAN LOC (V), QUAN LONG (D), AND THEIR POSITION QUICKLY CAME UNDER ATTACK. ARTILLERY HAS NOW BEEN MOVED TO THE AREA TO FIRE INTO VC CONCENTRATIONS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE VILLAGE. AN RF BATTALION HAS BEGUN RECONSTRUCTION OF 3 OUTPOSTS IN THE VICINITY. THE AREA AROUND DAM DOI DISTRICT TOWN WAS RELATIVELY QUIET, AND AN ARVN BATTALION WAS MOVED OUT OF THE DISTRICT LEAVING A COMPANY OF COMBAT ENGINEERS TO IMPROVE THE DEFENSES OF NEARBY CHAU LA FIRE SUPPORT BASE.

2. ICCS ACTIVITIES: ICCS REGION VI RECEIVED 12 COMPLAINTS OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WHILE REGION VII RECEIVED 34 COMPLAINTS THIS WEEK AND 22 LAST WEEK. NO OBSERVATIONS WERE CONDUCTED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES, COMBAT CASUALTIES
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Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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